

ART. III.—*Nest and Egg of Queen Victoria's Rifle Bird*
(*Ptilorhis Victoriae*).

(With Plate I.)

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The nest and egg of the Victoria rifle bird here depicted, was taken on one of the Barnard Islands by Mr. H. Barnard and myself. We visited these islands on November 18, 1891, in quest of the egg of this bird, and built our small humpy about eight feet from a screw palm (*Pandanus aquaticus*), which grew just above high water mark. We saw a pair of rifle birds in some light scrub close by our camp, and they seemed very fearless, the hen bird especially so. Next morning was spent in searching over this interesting and densely timbered island, but without success. During the afternoon, however, we determined to watch the hen bird, which was seen on a tree close by, and so posted ourselves one on each side of the aforementioned patch of scrub. The bird had some moss in her bill, which she kept dropping and catching again before it reached the ground, and we naturally thought she was building, but presently she darted down into the scrub close by Mr. Barnard. In a few minutes he saw her fly into the screw palm by our camp, in which we found she had her nest. The nest itself which was built near the crown of the tree about seven feet from the ground, not being visible, and all we could see was the head of the bird. She continued sitting most of the next day, having apparently become accustomed to our presence.

We then took the nest and found it contained only one egg, which was hard set, the chick being about seven days old. The nest was built principally of vine tendrils and leaves rather loosely put together (Plate I).

Fig 1.



Fig 2

